

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OPR-02 CA-01 HA-05 /076 W
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R 131341Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6301
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, NU
SUBJECT: CONTINUING DISTURBANCES

SUMMARY: THE CONTINUING, APPARENTLY RANDOM PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH HAVE CONTINUED ON A REGULAR BUT CONSTANTLY CHANGING BASIS SINCE THE CHAMORRO ASSASSINATION FLARED UP IN RECENT DAYS. END SUMMARY

1. OVER THE APRIL 8-9 WEEKEND A CAMPESINO DEMONSTRATION TO PROTEST SOCIAL CONDITIONS WAS BROKEN UP BY THE NATIONAL GUARD (GN) IN DIRI-AMBA. THERE WERE FIVE DEMONSTRATORS SHOT. ALTHOUGH ONE WITNESS DECLARED THAT THE GN SHOT TO KILL, THERE WERE NOT DEATHS. TWO OTHERS WERE WOUNDED, INCLUDING AN ELEVEN-YEAR OLD BOY. THEY WERE HIT BY BULLETS IN A SOTRE ABOUT THREE BLOCKS FROM THE CEMETERY WHERE THE CAMPESINOS WERE RALLYING. THE WOMAN WHO WAS IN THE STORE LATER DIED.

2. ON APRIL 8 IN GRANADA, WHERE STUDENTS HAVE OCCUPIED SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES TO PROTEST THE PRISON CONDITIONS OF FSLN MEMBERS MARCIO JAEN AND TOMAS BORGE, THERE WERE MASS DEMONSTRATIONS BROKEN UP BY THE GN AND AT LEAST ONE YOUTH WAS REPORTED ARRESTED. ALTHOUGH HOME-
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MADE BOMBS WERE THROWN AT THE GN, THEY APPARENTLY DID NOT USE GUNFIRE TO DISSOLVE THE PROTESTERS. HOWEVER, THE NEXT MORNING TEAR GAS AND SHOTS INTO THE AIR WERE USED BY THE GN TO DISSOLVE PROTESTERS IN THE CENTRAL PARK. THERE WERE FURTHER ARRESTS.

3. IN JINOTEPE, THERE WERE ALSO DEMONSTRATIONS AND HOME-MADE BOMBS, ONE OF WHICH WOUNDED TWO GN RECRUITS. MASKED STUDENTS OCCUPIED

A CHURCH AND BEGAN RINGING THE CHURCH BELL. THE GN REPORTEDLY FIRED AT THE CUPOLA OF THE CHURCH FORCING THE STUDENTS TO ABANDON IT. ONE STUDENT LEADER WAS REPORTED ARRESTED.

4. IN ESTELI, STUDENTS TOOK OVER THE AGRICULTURE SCHOOL AND FOUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS. THERE ARE SEVERAL PEOPLE ON HUNGER STRIKE AT THE RED CROSS CENTER, ALSO IN PROTEST OF PRISON CONDITIONS FOR BERGE AND JAEN.

5. SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES AND RED CROSS CENTERS WERE ALSO OCCUPIED IN MANAGUA, MASAYA, LEON, RIVAS, LA CONCEPCION, JINOTEGA, TICUANTEPE, CATARINA, SAN JERONIMO, BOACO, AND CONDEGA.

6. COMMENT: THESE VARIOUS DISTURBANCES ARE FOR THE MOST PART STUDENT ORGANIZED. HOWEVER, A NEWLY-FORMED ORGANIZATION OF POLITICALLY ACTIVE OPPOSITIONIST WOMEN (AMPRONAC) ALSO HAS BEEN PLAYING A LEADING ROLE, ESPECIALLY IN THE HUNGER STRIKES. ALTHOUGH THE VARIOUS MANIFESTATIONS HAVE OSTENSIBLE CONCRETE PLATFORMS, I.E., JUSTICE IN THE CHAMORRO ASSASSINATION, AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, ETC., THEIR PURPOSE APPEARS TO BE TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON SOMOZA AND THE GN. THEY MAY BE HAVING SOME SUCCESS IN RECRUITING NEW POLITICAL ACTIVISTS AND CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR NEW OUTBREAKS OF CIVIL STRIFE SUCH AS OCCURRED IN MONIMBO. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW CASUALTIES, IT APPEARS THAT IN TERMS OF NICARAGUAN TRADITION THE GN HAS CONTINUED TO BE GENERALLY RESTRAINED IN ITS RESPONSE.

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Message Attributes

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